



HABITAT & REGION FACTS

Become Sierra Aware

The Sierra Nevada is one of the most significant natural and biologically diverse regions in the world.

The Sierra Nevada Region constitutes about 25% of California's land area: 25 million acres in size; 430 miles from North to South and 70 miles wide; and includes all or part of 22 counties.

The Sierra Nevada is the longest unbroken mountain range in the lower 48 states.

There are more than 500 peaks over 12,000 feet in elevation in the Sierra Nevada range.

Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in the contiguous US (el. 14,496) is located in the Sierra Nevada.

The Sierra Nevada Region is home to 60% of California's animals (vertebrates)—about 572 distinct species. Over one-third of these animal species are listed by the Department of Fish and Game as rare, threatened, or endangered species that are declining in California.

Almost half of California's plants (3,500 species) are located in the Sierra Nevada and nearly 350 of these are native only to the Sierra Nevada Region, including the world's largest living organism: the Giant Sequoia tree.

The Sierra Nevada has lost 16% of its diverse westside foothill habitats since 1960. The number of human residents in the foothill region is expected to triple within the next 40 years. This increase could lead to a landscape of fragmented woodlands unable to sustain wildlife and threaten migration routes if appropriate planning does not occur.

Habitat for plants and animals is found not only in the wild areas of the Region, but on sustainable managed working lands, such as farms, ranches, and forest lands.